

dug out by ice. The question is thus narrowed to the same issue as that which every rock-enclosed lake proposes to the geologist. It may perhaps be impossible to prove that a valley, which had its course defined at first by a rent of the earth's crust, and which since then, up even to recent times, has been subjected to subterranean tremors, has not been rent open into deep lake-basins at a late geological period. But to affirm that it has been so sundered is a mere assertion, for which some evidence from the ground itself beyond the mere existence of the lakes ought to be produced.

The Great Glen receives the drainage of a wide mountainous region on either side, and in old times a larger amount of ice probably flowed into it than into any other valley in Scotland. From the west came the large glaciers of Loch Eil, Loch Arkaig, Glen Moriston, and Glen Urquhart, from the east those of the Glens of Lochaber, and those which descended from the north-western flanks of the Monadhliath mountains. The sides of the valley show everywhere the flowing rounded outlines that mark the seaward march of the ice, and its rocky bottom, where visible, bears the same impress. That it has been ice-worn is thus rendered plain. Were there no other examples of such ice-worn cavities in Scotland it might be too bold even to suggest that these lake-basins of the Great Glen may have been scooped out by ice. But when the same features can be seen in hundreds of other instances where no fracture or subsidence can be shown to exist, they may be reasonably treated with the other glaciated rock-basins of the country as hollows essentially due to erosion.

Other examples of lakes lying in longitudinal valleys are Lochs Awe, Tay, Shiel, and Erich. Loch Awe is one of the largest and noblest sheets of water in the country.